

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A map of transmission slots for a port of a network element, comprising:
 - a plurality of hierarchical sets of substantially evenly spaced port transmission slots;
 - the hierarchical sets comprising a plurality of parent sets each having its port transmission slots divided between a plurality of child sets; and
 - the child sets comprising interleaved port transmission slots.
2. The map of Claim 1, further comprising each parent set having a same number of child sets.
3. The map of Claim 1, the hierarchical sets further comprising a plurality of base sets, the base sets each having a number of port transmission slots corresponding to a base transmission rate for the port.
4. The map of Claim 1, the hierarchical sets further comprising:
 - a plurality of primary hierarchical sets, the primary hierarchical sets each comprising substantially evenly spaced port transmission slots and a number of port transmission slots based upon a base transmission rate for the port; and
 - a plurality of secondary hierarchical sets, the secondary hierarchical sets comprising remaining port transmission slots.
5. The map of Claim 4, the number of port transmission slots in each primary hierarchical set comprising a multiple of a number of port transmission slots corresponding to the base transmission rate.

6. A network element for a telecommunication system, comprising:
a plurality of ports for connection to disparate transmission lines;
a map of port transmission slots for each of the ports, the maps each
comprising:

- 5 a plurality of hierarchical sets of substantially evenly spaced port
transmission slots;
the hierarchical sets comprising a plurality of parent sets each having
its port transmission slots divided between a plurality of child sets; and
the child sets comprising interleaved port transmission slots.

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7. The network element of Claim 6, the hierarchical sets of each map
further comprising:

- a plurality of primary hierarchical sets, the primary hierarchical sets each
comprising substantially evenly spaced port transmission slots and a number of port
15 transmission slots based upon a base transmission rate for the corresponding port; and
a plurality of secondary hierarchical sets, the secondary hierarchical sets
comprising remaining port transmission slots.

8. The network element of Claim 7, the number of transmission slots in
20 each primary transmission set comprising a multiple of a number of transmission slots
corresponding to the base transmission rate.

9. A map of transmission slots for a port of a network element, comprising:

a plurality of hierarchical sets of port transmission slots;

5 the hierarchical sets comprising a plurality of parent sets each having its port transmission slots divided into a plurality of child sets, each child set having a disparate interlaced portion of the port transmission slots of the each parent set.

10. A method for assigning bandwidth, comprising:
receiving a request to transmit traffic having a rate;
assigning a portion of the transmission bandwidth to the traffic; and
the portion of the bandwidth comprising substantially evenly spaced parts of
5 the transmission bandwidth.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the traffic comprises dedicated
bandwidth traffic.

10 12. The method of Claim 10, wherein the traffic comprises dynamic
bandwidth traffic.

13. The method of Claim 10, wherein the substantially evenly spaced parts
of the transmission bandwidth are interleaved with disparate space parts of the
15 transmission bandwidth assigned to disparate traffic.

14. The method of Claim 10, wherein the substantially evenly spaced parts
of the transmission bandwidth comprise substantially evenly spaced slots of the
transmission bandwidth.

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